

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/S-DKEOGH:LFS  
APPROVED BY AF-WBEDMONDSON  
S/ JETHYDEN  
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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S E C R E T STATE 061932

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, NG

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO NIGERIA

REF: STATE 53342

1. HERewith IS AIDE MEMOIRE VERSION OF TALKING  
POINTS, WHICH WE AND BRITISH AGREE MAY BE PASSED TO  
NIGERIANS, IF YOU BELIEVE TO BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY,  
IN VIEW OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING  
PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON RHODESIA (SEPTTEL).

2. BEGIN TEXT:

-- WE CONTINUE TO SHARE WITH YOU AS THE PRIMARY  
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GOAL IN RHODESIA A GENUINE TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY TO  
THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION THROUGH A PROCESS  
WHICH GUARANTEES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF  
ZIMBABWE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN LEADERS IN CONDITIONS  
WHICH ARE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL. THE PRINCIPLES OF THE  
AAP SEEM TO PROVIDE THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS.

- DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PF, AND ITS CONTINUED INSISTENCE ON A DOMINANT ROLE FOR ITSELF DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE TRANSITION PERIOD HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT

FACTORS IN KEEPING US FROM MOVING AHEAD WITH THE AAP.

-- WE DO NOT THINK THAT FINAL INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS ASSURED: INDEED OUR REACTION HAS BEEN ONE OF HEALTHY SKEPTICISM. DESPITE STRONG POLITICAL FORCES IN OUR OWN COUNTRIES, WE HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, FRANKLY, DEVELOPMENTS IN SALISBURY HAVE CREATED A SITUATION WHICH WE CANNOT IGNORE. THE APPARENT ACCEPTANCE BY SMITH OF ONE-MAN-ONE VOTE HAS GIVEN MANY PEOPLE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS AT LAST ACCEPTED A GENUINE TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY TO THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION.

-- WE ARE TELLING THE INTERNALLY-BASED NATIONALISTS OF OUR SERIOUS CONCERN THAT THE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED IN SALISBURY WILL NOT PRODUCE A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER AND COULD NOT THEREFORE BE COUNTED ON TO END THE WAR OR WIN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. WE ARE ALSO MAKING CLEAR TO THEM OUR DESIRE TO ACHIEVE A  
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SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE PARTIES.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT IN FACT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT IS A LONG WAY FROM ACHIEVING A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER. WE DO NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF HOW THE AGREEMENT WILL BE MADE TO WORK. WHATEVER COMES OUT, HOWEVER, WE WILL COMPARE AGAINST THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PLAN; THE ESSENTIAL TEST WILL BE WHETHER THERE IS A RELINQUISHMENT OF POWER BY SMITH AND A RAPID TRANSITION TO GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE.

-- WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED THAT SINCE THE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED IN SALISBURY WILL NOT PRODUCE A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER, IT COULD NOT END THE WAR OR WIN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. WE ALSO RETAIN OUR DESIRE TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE PARTIES.

-- WE WANT TO GET YOUR VIEWS ON HOW TO PROCEED IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE PF HAS NOT AGREED TO OUR MINIMUM ESSENTIALS AND SITHOLE, MUZOREWA, AND SMITH HAVE

REACHED AGREEMENT IN SALISBURY. THIS OUTCOME  
CREATES PROBLEMS FOR ALL OF US.

-- ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE PF THAT ONLY ENDS IN  
DISAGREEMENT OVER THE POWERS OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER

AND OVER CONTROL OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES  
WOULD BE HARMFUL TO OUR CAUSE. IT WOULD STRENGTHEN  
SMITH'S HAND AND LEAVE US FURTHER FROM A SATISFACTORY  
SOLUTION THAN EVER, AS WELL AS SUBJECT US TO A  
GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM WHICH WOULD TIE OUR HANDS.

-- MOREOVER, THE GRATUITOUS ATTACK ON OUR TWO  
GOVERNMENTS IN THE PF STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 25  
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RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THE PF IS INTERESTED  
IN SUCH TALKS, AND COMPLICATES OUR POLITICAL PROBLEM  
EVEN FURTHER.

-- WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AAP  
AND WE HAVE BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR SUPPORT  
FOR OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OUR MUTUAL GOAL, AN  
INDEPENDENT MAJORITY-RULED ZIMBABWE. WE LOOK  
FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO HAVE YOUR HELP AND UNDERSTANDING  
AS WE WORK TOWARDS THAT GOAL IN THE CIRITICAL DAYS  
AHEAD. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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